IN THE CLAIMS:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A system for peer-to-peer access to a collection of data, comprising:

[[a.]] a musicbox comprising:

[[i.]] a persistent data store, the persistent data store containing a plurality of individually selectable data files of a predetermined data format, some of the data files being pre-loaded onto the persistent data store;

[[ii.]] a data communications interface operatively connected to a data communications network to effect a peer-to-peer network, the data communications network comprising a plurality of musicboxes authorized to participate in the peer-to-peer network; and

[[iii.]] a controller operatively connected to the persistent data store and the data communications interface; and

[[b.]] software executing in the musicbox, the software ~~capable of~~ being operable for:

[[i.]] identifying, without utilizing a central server, ~~other~~ the plurality of authorized musicboxes executing instances of the software;

[[ii.]] ~~allowing~~ peer-to-peer sharing ~~of~~ the data files with the identified ~~other~~ authorized musicboxes, the sharing being restricted to the identified plurality of authorized ~~other~~ musicboxes having authorization to participate in the peer-to-peer sharing of data files;

· [[iii.]] securing the data files from unauthorized access so that the data files are prevented from being retrieved in a perceptible format thereof by unauthorized musicboxes;

[[iv.]] reproducing the data files into a predetermined perceptible format; and

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[[v.]] ~~allowing~~ enabling users of the software to manipulate the data files.

2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the data files comprise works subject to copyright and workings not subject to copyright.

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the data files comprise at least one of audiovisual works, music recordings, performance recordings, digitized film recordings, digitized video recordings, graphic work images, text, and software.

4. (currently amended) A system for peer-to-peer access to a collection of data, comprising:

[[a.]] a musicbox comprising:

[[i.]] a persistent data store, the persistent data store containing a plurality of individually selectable data files of a predetermined data format, some of the data files being pre-loaded onto the persistent data store;

[[ii.]] a data communications interface operatively connected to a data communications network to effect a peer-to-peer network; and

[[iii.]] a controller operatively connected to the ~~persisent~~ persistent data store and the data communications interface; and

[[b.]] software executing in the musicbox, the software ~~capable of~~ being operable for:

[[i.]] identifying other musicboxes executing instances of the software;

[[ii.]] ~~allowing~~ peer-to-peer sharing ~~of~~ the data files with the identified other musicboxes, the sharing being restricted to the identified other musicboxes having authorization to participate in the peer-to-peer sharing of data files;

[[iii.]] securing the data files from unauthorized access;

[[iv.]] reproducing the data files into a predetermined perceptible format; and

[[v.]] ~~allowing~~ enabling users of the software to manipulate the data files, wherein said software is configured to perform ~~said~~ the securing data files from unauthorized access ~~in step (b) (iii)~~ by selecting from among at least ~~the processes~~:

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[[(1)]] securing a the data file files from unauthorized copying, thereby preventing the data files from being retrieved in the predetermined data format by unauthorized musicboxes; and

[[(2)]] securing a the data file files for authorized access.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 4 further comprising an audio-visual interface to export audio and/or visual data for further reproduction of content within the data files.

6. (currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 4, wherein the musicbox is selected from at least one of specialized musicbox devices and personal computers.

7.(previously presented) The system of claim 4 further comprising a central server to provide registration services, the central server being a peer participant in the peer-to-peer network.

8. (currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 4 further comprising an authorization device, comprising at least one of an electronic smart card, a mechanical smart card, and an optical key smart card.

9. (currently amended) A method of distributing data files among a plurality of systems of a peer-peer network for a system of claim 1, comprising:

[[a.]] pre-loading a plurality of data files onto the a persistent data store of one of the plurality of systems from a larger set of data files;

[[b.]] initializing access of the one system to [[a]] the peer-to-peer network;

[[c.]] identifying other systems available on the peer-to-peer network;

[[d.]] determining which of the data files on the other identified systems are not present on the persistent data store of the one system;

[[e.]] identifying the plurality of data files on the persistent data store to the other identified systems;

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[[f.]] ~~allowing~~ enabling a user of the one system to catalog the data files available on the identified systems;

g. ~~allowing~~ enabling the user to select a data file or data files not present on the one system from the plurality of data files identified on the other systems of the peer-to-peer network; and

[[h]]. ~~allowing~~ rendering ~~the user to render~~ the selected data files present on other systems into a desired perceptible format on the one system.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising requiring a user to log into the peer-to-peer network and presenting a user interface to the user appropriate to allow the user to select one or more categories of data files available from a larger set of such categories.

11. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising requiring access by the musicbox to the peer-to-peer network on a predetermined periodic basis.

12. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising allowing user to purchase a data file for permanent access, the permanent access comprising downloading the data file onto a storage medium of the user's choice.

13. (currently amended) A method of distributing data files for a system for peer-to-peer access to a collection of data, ~~said system~~ comprising:

~~[[a.]] a musicbox comprising:~~

~~[[i.]] a persistent data store, the persistent data store containing a plurality of individually selectable data files of a predetermined data format, some of the data files being pre-loaded onto the persistent data store;~~

~~[[ii.]] a data communications interface operatively connected to a data communications network to effect a peer-to-peer network; and~~

~~[[iii.]] a controller operatively connected to the persistent data store and the data communications interface; and~~

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[[b.]] software executing in the musicbox, the software capable of: operable for

[[i.]] identifying, without utilizing a central server, other musicboxes executing instances of the software;

[[ii.]] allowing peer-to-peer sharing of the data files with the identified other musicboxes, the sharing restricted to the identified other musicboxes having authorization to participate in the peer-to-peer sharing of data files;

[[iii.]] securing the data files from unauthorized access;

[[iv.]] reproducing the data files into a predetermined perceptible format; and

[[v.]] allowing users of the software to manipulate the data files,

wherein said method comprises:

[[a.]] pre-loading a plurality of data files onto the a persistent data store of the system from a larger set of data files;

[[b.]] initializing access of the system to a peer-to-peer network;

[[c.]] identifying other systems available on the peer-to-peer network;

[[d.]] determining which of the data files on the other identified systems are not present on the persistent data store of the system;

[[e.]] identifying the plurality of data files on the persistent data store to the other identified systems;

[[f.]] allowing enabling a user to catalog the data files available on the identified systems;

[[g.]] allowing enabling the user to select a data file from the plurality of data files identified on the peer-to-peer network; and

[[h.]] allowing the user to render rendering the data files into a desired perceptible format for the identified systems of the peer-to-peer network but preventing the data files from being retrieved in the desired perceptible format by unidentified systems, wherein method step (b) further comprises the rendering the data files into the desired perceptible format includes limiting a user to at least one of a read-only or transient access mode.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim [[9]] 13, wherein the initializing access of the system step (b) further comprises:

[[i.]] requiring the user to obtain a subscription;

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[[ii.]] registering the user once the subscription is obtained; and

[[iii.]] collecting and distributing appropriate royalties to content creators at least partially based on the user's subscription.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the subscription comprises at least one of monthly fees, pre-paid content purchase, and per unit of content purchase.

16. (currently amended) A method of distributing data files ~~for a system for peer-to-peer access to a collection of data, said system~~ comprising:

~~a. a musicbox comprising:~~

~~i. a persistent data store, the persistent data store containing a plurality of individually-selectable data files of a predetermined data format, some of the data files being pre-loaded onto the persistent data store;~~

~~ii. a data communications interface operatively connected to a data communications network to effect a peer-to-peer network; and~~

~~iii. a controller operatively connected to the persisent data store and the data communications interface; and~~

~~b. software executing in the musicbox, the software capable of:~~

~~i. identifying, without utilizing a central server, other musicboxes executing instances of the software;~~

~~ii. allowing peer-to-peer sharing of the data files with the identified other musicboxes, the sharing restricted to the identified other musicboxes having authorization to participate in the peer-to-peer sharing of data files;~~

~~iii. securing the data files from unauthorized access;~~

~~iv. reproducing the data files into a predetermined perceptible format; and~~

~~v. allowing users of the software to manipulate the data files,~~

~~wherein said method comprises:~~

[[a.]] pre-loading a plurality of data files onto the persistent data store from a larger set of data files;

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[[b.]] initializing access of the system to a peer-to-peer network <u>by accessing a</u> <u>central server to accomplish the initializing of access to the peer-to-peer network, the</u> <u>central server being a peer participant in the peer-to-peer network</u>;

[[c.]] identifying other systems available on the peer-to-peer network;

[[d.]] determining which of the data files on the other identified systems are not present on the persistent data store;

[[e.]] identifying the plurality of data files on the persistent data store to the other identified systems;

[[f.]] allowing a user to catalog the data files available on the identified systems;

[[g.]] allowing the user to select a data file from the plurality of data files identified on the peer-to-peer network; and

[[h.]] allowing the user to render the data files into a desired perceptible format[[;]]~

~~wherein method step (b) further comprises accessing a central server to accomplish the initializing of access to the peer-to-peer network, the central server being a peer participant in the peer-to-peer network.~~

17. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~9~~ <u>16,</u> wherein <u>the identifying of</u> <u>other systems</u> ~~step (c)~~ further comprises at least one of identifying a musicbox to a central server, identifying a musicbox to other participants in the peer-to-peer network by broadcasting an identity of the musicbox to the other participants in the peer-to-peer network, and identifying a musicbox to other participants in the peer-to-peer network by pinging for an identity of the other participants in the peer-to-peer network.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~9~~ <u>16,</u> wherein <u>the identifying of the</u> <u>plurality of data files</u> ~~step (e)~~ further comprises programmatically providing one or more participants in the peer-to-peer network with a description of content available at a musicbox to allow users to scout for desired content.

19.(currently amended) The method of claim ~~9~~ <u>16</u> further comprising:

[[a.]] gathering data of the user's usage of the musicbox into a user data profile;

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[[b.]] making the user data profile available to a content provider.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising using the user data profile by a provider of data files to generate messages targeted to the user based where the targeted messages comprise at least one of advertisements, announcements, and samples of further data similar to that in the profile data.

21. (currently amended) A system for peer-to-peer access to a collection of data, comprising:

[[a.]] means for storing persistent data, the persistent data comprising a plurality of data files of a predetermined data format, the data files further being secured from unauthorized access;

[[b.]] means for data communications, operatively connected to the means for storing persistent data; and

[[c.]] means for accessing the persistent data[[,]] operatively in communication with the means for storing persistent data and the means for data communications, the means for accessing the persistent data being operable for capable of:

[[i.]] identifying, without utilizing a central server, other systems executing the means for accessing the persistent data;

[[ii.]] allowing peer-to-peer sharing of the persistent data with the identified other systems, the sharing being restricted to the identified other systems so that the persistent data is prevented from being retrieved in the predetermined data format from the identified systems by an unidentified system; and

[[iii.]] allowing enabling users of the means for accessing the persistent data to manipulate the persistent data.

22. (currently amended) The system of claim 21, wherein said identifying comprises:

detecting whether the other system is executing an instance of software that allows and restricts peer-to-peer sharing of the plural data files; and

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identifying ~~said~~ the other system as the unidentified system not being a peer if it is detected that said other unidentified system is not executing said instance.

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein said system does not include a central server.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said identifying comprises:

detecting whether a given musicbox of said other musicboxes is executing said software; and

identifying said given musicbox as not being a peer if it is detected that said given musicbox is not executing an instance of said software.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said system does not include a central server.

26. (currently amended) The system of claim 4, wherein said ~~processes~~ software is further ~~include~~ operable for:

[[(3)]] securing a predetermined collection of data files from unauthorized copying, and

[[(4)]] securing a predetermined collection of data files for authorized access.

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